AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently amended)

An echo canceller which removes a line echo occurring in a hybrid circuit used in broadband voice telephony comprising:

an echo replica forming means for forming an echo replica signal from a far-end input signal by using an adaptive filter including a filter section and a coefficient update section;

an echo cancellation means for removing an echo component in a near-end input signal by subtracting the echo replica signal from the near-end input signal; and

an offset removal means for removing an offset component produced under an effect of low frequencies from the filter coefficient of the adaptive filter,

wherein the offset removal means calculates a mean value, a weighed mean value, or a median value of the filter coefficients in a past predetermined period as an offset component for each filter coefficient, and removes the offset component from the filter coefficient of the adaptive filter.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Currently amended)

The echo canceller according to Claim 2 1, wherein the offset removal means

removes the offset component once in a predetermined period.

Claim 5. (Original)

The echo canceller according to Claim 1, further comprising a frequency

component detection means for detecting whether either or both of the far-end input

signal and the near-end input signal contain a low-frequency component lower than a

predetermined frequency, wherein the offset removal means removes the offset

component when the frequency component detection means detects that a low-frequency

component is contained.

Claim 6. (Currently amended)

The echo canceller according to Claim 5, wherein the frequency component

detection means varies sets the predetermined frequency in accordance with to a value

obtained by an equation sf/(L-1), where sf denotes a sampling frequency of the far-end

input signal, the near-end input signal, or both, and L denotes a set value of the tap length

of the adaptive filter.

Claim 7. (Canceled)